

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) An input circuit for receiving and processing signals from an inductive speed sensor, comprising:

a comparator;

a switchable voltage divider which includes first and second resistors; and

first and second circuit inputs each of which is connected to an input of the comparator for evaluating signals from the inductive speed sensor, ~~and with sensor and~~ and to the switchable voltage divider; wherein

the first circuit input is connected via the first resistor to a first input of the comparator, and the second circuit input is connected via the second resistor, which is disconnectable by a switching device, to the first input of the comparator as well;

the switching element is switchable, depending on speed detected by the speed sensor such that, if the speed value is above a predetermined speed, the second resistor is connected, and, if the speed value is below the predetermined speed, the second resistor is disconnected from the second circuit input.

10. (previously presented) The input circuit as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the switching element comprises at least one transistor that is

connected to a control device which blocks the at least one transistor at low speed and switches it to a low impedance at high speed.

11. (currently amended) The input circuit as claimed in ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 10, wherein the at least one transistor is a p-channel MOS field-effect transistor.

12. (previously presented) The input circuit as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said at least one transistor comprises two transistors that are arranged in different switching directions.

13. (previously presented) The input circuit as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a micro-controller of the engine control is used as a control device.

14. (previously presented) The input circuit as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising a voltage divider comprised of two further resistors, one of said further resistors connecting the second circuit input to a preset constant voltage, and the other connecting the second circuit input to ground.

15. (currently amended) The input circuit as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising a resistor that connects the second input of the comparator to the second circuit input, and a resistor that connects the second input of the comparator ~~(K)~~ to (K) to its output.

16. (previously presented) The input circuit as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising a pair of Zener-diodes connected with opposite polarities between the first and the second circuit inputs.

17. (previously presented) A circuit for inputting and processing a signal from a speed sensor element, comprising:

a comparator having first and second input terminals;

first and second input circuits connected to receive said signal, said first input circuit being connected to a first input terminal of said comparator, and said second input circuit being connected to a reference voltage and to said second input terminal of said comparator;

a switchable voltage divider circuit interruptibly connecting a voltage divider circuit for reducing an amplitude of the signal on said first input circuit; and

a microprocessor connected to receive and process an output of said comparator and for determining a speed value based thereon;

wherein said microprocessor controls switching said switchable voltage divider based on a magnitude of determined vehicle speed.

18. (previously presented) A method for inputting and processing a signal from a speed sensor, comprising:

applying said signal to a comparator for comparing said signal with a reference value;

processing an output signal from said comparator in a microprocessor to determine whether a preset speed threshold has been exceeded;

when said speed threshold has been exceeded, scaling said input signal downward via a voltage divider circuit prior to said comparing.